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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: THOMPSON ET AL. Examiner: UNKNOWN
Serial No.: 10/816,784 Group Art Unit: UNKNOWN
Filed: APRIL 2, 2004 Docket: 11576.67USU1
Confirmation No.: 9955
Title: STENT WITH END ADAPTED FOR FLARING

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on September 7, 2004.

By:

Name:

Kristine A. Welch
Kristine A. Welch

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

23552

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Sir:

We are transmitting herewith the attached:

- ☒ Transmittal Sheet in duplicate containing Certificate of Mailing
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement, Form 1449, 3 Reference(s)
- ☒ Return postcard

Please consider this a PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME for a sufficient number of months to enter these papers or any future reply, if appropriate. Please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2725. A duplicate of this sheet is enclosed.

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903, Minneapolis, MN 55402-0903
612.332.5300

By:

Name: Karen A. Fitzsimmons

Reg. No.: 50,470

KFtitzsimmons:PLSkaw



S/N 10/816,784

PATENT

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By:

Name:

Kristen A. Welch
Kristen A. Welch

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b))

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

23552

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Dear Sir:

With regard to the above-identified application, the items of information listed on the enclosed Form 1449 are brought to the attention of the Examiner.

This statement should be considered because it is submitted before the mailing date of a first Office Action on-the-merits. Accordingly, no fee is due for consideration of the items listed on the enclosed Form 1449.

A copy of any foreign patent document or "Other Document" listed on the Form 1449 is enclosed, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(2). Because this application was filed after June 30, 2003, copies of the U.S. Patents and U.S. patent publications listed on the enclosed Form 1449 are not provided.

No representation is made that a reference is "prior art" within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 and Applicants reserve the right, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 or otherwise, to establish that the reference(s) are not "prior art." Moreover, Applicants do not represent that a reference has been thoroughly reviewed or that any relevance of any portion of a reference is intended.

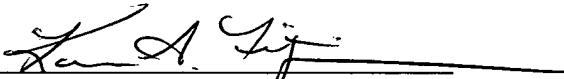
Consideration of the items listed is respectfully requested. Pursuant to the provisions of M.P.E.P. 609, it is requested that the Examiner return a copy of the attached Form 1449, marked as being considered and initialed by the Examiner, to the undersigned with the next official communication.

Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2725.

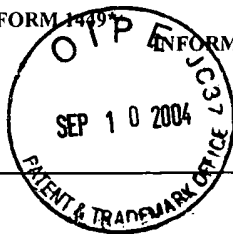
Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
(612) 332-5300

Date: Sept 7, 2004


Karen A. Fitzsimmons
Reg. No. 50,470
KAF:PLSkaw

FORM 1449* INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT IN AN APPLICATION (Use several sheets if necessary)	Docket Number: 11576.67USU1	Application Number: 10/816,784
	Applicant: THOMPSON ET AL.	
	Filing Date: 04/02/2004	Group Art Unit: UNKNOWN



U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	4,768,507	09/06/1988	Fischell et al.			
	5,064,435	11/12/1991	Porter			
	5,147,370	09/15/1992	McNamara et al.			
	5,246,445	09/21/1993	Yachia et al.			
	5,372,600	12/13/1994	Beyar et al.			
	5,607,444	03/04/1997	Lam			
	5,695,499	12/09/1997	Helgersen et al.			
	5,868,777	02/09/1999	Lam			
	6,096,071	08/01/2000	Yadav			
	6,132,460	10/17/2000	Thompson			
	6,132,461	10/17/2000	Thompson			
	2001/0027338 A1	10/04/2001	Greenberg			
	6,358,274	03/19/2002	Thompson			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
						YES	NO

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

		Han, Y. et al., "Flared Polyurethane-covered Self-expandable Nitinol Stent for Malignant Biliary Obstruction," <i>J. Vasc. Interv. Radiol.</i> , Vol. 14, No. 10, pp. 1291-1301 (October 2003)
		Shin, J. et al., "Malignant Tracheobronchial Strictures: Palliation with Covered Retrievable Expandable Nitinol Stent," <i>J. Vasc. Interv. Radiol.</i> , Vol. 14, No. 12, pp. 1525-1534 (December 2003)
		Vivas, I. et al., "Percutaneous Extrahepatic Portacaval Shunt with Covered Prostheses: Feasibility Study," <i>J. Vasc. Interv. Radiol.</i> , Vol. 14, No. 12, pp. 1543-1552 (December 2003)

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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form for next communication to the Applicant.	